

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01204 142333 Z

10

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

COA-02 IO-12 OMB-01 EB-11 OIC-04 RSR-01 /113 W

----- 055246

R 142304 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9100

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1204

1. THIS MORNING I PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO FONMIN ARENALES SECRETARY ROGERS' MESSAGE ON CUBA. THIS LED ARENALES TO COMMENT ON EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR OAS SANCTIONS AMONG SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY VENEZUELA. HE READ NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT FROM CARACAS REPORTING CALVANI STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT OAS CUBA POLICY SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED. ARENALES SPECULATED THAT VENEZUELA MAY WELL BE STIRRING UP SOME MOVE IN OAS/ GA TO LIFT SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA.

2. I TOOK OCCASION TO ASK HIM WHAT POSITION HE WOULD TAKE IF CUBAN ISSUE PRESENTED. HE FIRST RELATED GOG POSITION ON CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN MEXICAN LOS MEETING. HE HAD BEEN QUERIED ON THIS AND REPLIED THAT INVITATION TO CUBA WAS MATTER FOR HOST GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE. HE IS NEUTRAL ON SUBJECT. CUBAN ATTENDANCE WILL NOT AFFECT GUATEMALA' S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE. IF ISSUE IS RAISED IN OAS/ GA HE IS INCLINED, DEPENDING ON TERMS OF PROPOSAL, TO ABSTAIN SO AS NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO EITHER OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO CUBA OR ENDORSEMENT. IF VENEZUELA, AS AGGRIEVED COUNTRY WHICH ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, WERE NOW TO SPONSOR THEIR REMOVAL, HE WOULD VOTE AFFIRMATIVELY.

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3. I REITERATED OUR POLICY AS STATED REFTEL.

4. COMMENT: THIS REDEFINITION OF GOG ATTITUDE TOWARD CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS REFLECTS BOTH ARENALES' AN APPRECIATION OF HOW LATIN AMERICAN ATTITUDES ARE SHIFTING TOWARD CUBA AND HIS DESIRE NOT TO GET CAUGHT IN A SHARPLY NEGATIVE AND MINORITY POSITION ON THE CUBAN ISSUE. IT DOES NOT REPRESENT A BASIC CHANGE TOWARD THE CASTRO REGIME AND THE POTENTIAL THREAT IT REPRESENTS FOR GUATEMALA. ARENALES IS IN EFFECT SAYING THA WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CUBA, BUT IF OTHER COUNTRIES WANT TO THAT IS THEIR BUSINESS AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO INTERVENE. A MEASURE OF DISTRUST OF OUR INTENTIONS -- IN SPITE OF OUR CATEGORIC STATEMENTS -- IS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE ARENALES ATTITUDE.
BOWDLER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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